

## **WOMT Summary for April 24, 2012**

WOMT met and discussed the following:

The Smelt Working Group agreed that given their present distribution, current salvage, and Delta conditions, risk of entrainment of delta smelt remains low and therefore, the Working Group recommends that no change in operations is necessary to adequately protect delta smelt from entrainment. The Working Group also agreed that given their present distribution, existing constraining conditions was sufficient to protect longfin smelt. The Working Group will continue to monitor smelt salvage, adult and larval smelt survey data, and delta hydrological conditions and will reconvene May 7, 2012, at 10 am.

Currently as of April 24, 2012, the FWS and DFG deem that no additional actions are needed for protection of delta and longfin smelt.

DOSS advises WOMT and NMFS on the following: 1) on April 20, 2012, the older juvenile loss density was reported to be 3.1 fish/TAF, which exceeds the first-stage trigger of 2.5 fish/TAF under Action IV.2.3, and the projects would be required to operate to an OMR level of no more negative than -3,500 for at least 5 days; 2) however, due to the trigger of nine sentinel steelhead was exceeded on April 19, 2012, the projects reduced exports to a combined exports of 1,500 cfs health and safety limit beginning on April 22, 2012 and will continue to operate per the tech memo to hold combined exports at 1,500 cfs through the current experimental period which ends on April 30, 2012; and 3) DOSS advises that the initial OMR treatment level for the May 1–May 15 experimental period target an OMR treatment level of -5,000 cfs, or as negative an OMR level as is feasible given all other regulatory constraints, including D-1641. DOSS did not advise seeking a variance to the D-1641 1:1 Vernalis flow to export requirement.

NMFS accepts the DOSS advice and determines on April 27, 2012, that combined 1,500 cfs exports through the end of the period on April 30, 2012, is consistent with the intent and objective of OMR flow management, as provided in the tech memo. The tech memo provides the DOSS with the flexibility to switch the order of the experimental OMR targets, that is, "DOSS may adjust the ordering of OMR flow management targets opportunistically during April and May 2012" (tech memo page 8). NMFS determines that since the OMR flow through April 30, 2012, and switching OMR experimental flows in May, is consistent with the joint stipulation and associated tech memo, that it will avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of Central Valley steelhead.